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BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH

CHIANG CHING-KUO

General CHIANG Ching-kuo has become one of the most powerful men in the Republic of China. This is due not only to his father's support but also to his own demonstrated ability.

CHIANG Ching-kuo is a Minister without Portfolio, Deputy Secretary General of the National Defense Council, Chairman of the Anti-Communist Youth National Salvation Corps, Director of the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen, and a member of the fifteen-member Kuomintang Standing Committee. He also holds several subordinate positions dealing with political indoctrination, intelligence and security affairs.

CHIANG Ching-kuo was born in 1910 in Chekiang Province to CHIANG Kai-shek's first wife. He attended a school near Shanghai, and was a participant in student movements there and in Peiping. In 1925, he was sent by his father to study in the USSR. In 1927, he joined the Red Army and studied at a military academy. Subsequently he worked on a collective farm, in a mine, and in a metal factory. Some Soviet sources state he denounced his father when CHIANG Kai-shek split with the Chinese Communists in 1927, but CHIANG Ching-kuo denies this. Early in 1937, he married a Russian girl, who returned with him to China in 1937.

From 1949 to 1954, he served in the Taiwan provincial headquarters of the KMT and then as Director of the Political Department of the Ministry of National Defense. Since that time he has devoted most of his time to political indoctrination and security matters. American observers believe that CHIANG Ching-kuo will continue to prefer to remain in the political background, but many place him among the foremost eventual contenders for the Premiership or Presidency.

In 1953, he toured the United States and United States officials who accompanied him commented that rarely has a visitor to this country displayed greater interest and enthusias... over what he saw. He has studied English for some time and now can carry on a modest social conversation.

A short, stocky man, CHIANG Ching-kuo is personally affable but somewhat shy. His private life is informal and austere. He has three

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sons and one daughter. He is a Methodist.

General CHIANG Ching-kuo speaks English but usually prefers the use of an interpreter.